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CIA CUBAN OVERFLIGHTS

29 AUGUST 1962 THROUGH 12 OCTOBER 1962

1. Mission number 3088 accomplished 29 August 1962 completed authorized missions for August 1962. SA-2 sites were first noted on this mission.

2. CIA Forecast of Activities for two missions in September was approved 30 August 1962 by the Special Group. COMOR paper number D-24/13, dated 13 June 1962, concluded that the missions now approved for July be conducted at weekly intervals in early July (2 missions). This document and recommendation was approved by the Special Group on 14 June 1962. For this reason missions were normally scheduled the first and third week of each month. The first flight for the month was scheduled for 5 September 1962. However, due to the increased interest in the community after mission 3088 and the probability of approval for additional sorties the alert weather forecasts were resumed 7 September 1962.

3. Weather:

Weather categories to be used are as follows:

Category I - Clear

Category II - 25% Cloud Cover or Less

Category III - Between 50% and 25% Cloud Cover

Category IV - Greater than 50% Cloud Cover,
but Not Overcast

Category V - 100% Cloud Cover (Overcast)

NRO Review Completed.

NGA Review Completed

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CLOUD EFFECTS ON HIGH ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Photo coverage of many targets is required on each U-2 mission. To insure adequate coverage the entire area of the mission must have 25 per cent or less cloud cover. With CAT I or CAT II conditions at least 75 per cent of the targets will be photographed clearly on any one flight.

2. A specific target reporting CAT I or II does not mean that the entire area is CAT I or II. In fact, over Cuba, particularly during the winter, cloud coverage varies greatly from one location to another. This change of cloud cover is due to prevailing wind, time or day and topographical influences such as land, water and mountain contrasts.

3. A normal weather observation by a ground observer reporting a "good" or "fair" day does not imply that the day is favorable for high altitude photography. Clouds at all levels within the camera's cone of observation must be considered to determine what portion of the ground will be photographed. Certain clouds which are of no significance to the ground observer are extremely critical when considering high altitude photography.

4. The increase in total cloud cover over a target area to CAT III conditions decreases the probability of successful photography in two significant ways:

a. Up to 50 per cent of the earth's surface scanned by the camera lens will be invisible because of intervening clouds. Another way of stating this is that any given target has up to a 50 per cent chance of being obscured by cloud and therefore invisible to the camera.

b. At any time the camera is not on a line between the target and the sun, cloud shadows can, and do, darken visible terrain sufficiently to detract significantly from optimum photographic quality. This adverse shadow effect is a function of cloud amount (horizontal cover), cloud thickness (vertical development) and the sun angle. Cumulus

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type clouds with considerable vertical development are normally associated with a CAT III condition. These clouds produce darker and longer shadows for any given sun angle.

5. As a result of the above, it has been found that photography attempted through a CAT III condition generally results in less than 50 per cent effectiveness.

6. The effect of cloud cover and shadow, as indicated under CAT III conditions, is accentuated even more under CAT IV conditions. The resultant effect on high level photography is a high probability of the complete loss of any successful photographic target coverage.

7. CAT V conditions obviate any possibility of high altitude photography.

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3 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Two missions were authorized by the Special Group
30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Not applicable.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 3 September 1962: Not applicable.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base,
California.

6. DECISION:

Alert mission 3089 for 5 September 1962.

7. REMARKS:

a. Number 343 being moved to Del Rio, Texas, in
automatic alert status.

b. This mission scheduled to approach Cuba from the
south, entering in the Sierra Maestra area, covering
Guantanamo, Banes, and the south central portion of Cuba;
exiting in the Matanzas area.

c. This operation being conducted from Laughlin Air
Force Base, Del Rio, Texas.

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4 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Two missions were authorized by the Special Group
30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3089:

Mission Plan: Valid 5 September 1962.

CAT II central portion; CAT III eastern portion.

GO-NO-GO: Valid 5 September 1962.

CAT II central portion; CAT III eastern portion.

b. Alert: Valid 6 September 1962.

No briefing required.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 4 September 1962: Not applicable.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352
in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of
commission, Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Twelve-hour mission plan weather approved and mission
3089 continued.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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5 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Two missions were authorized by the Special Group
30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 7 September 1962.
CAT IV variable CAT III over the entire island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 5 September 1962:
CAT II with patches of CAT III over the central portion
of the island, and CAT III variable CAT IV over the eastern
portion.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352
in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of
commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

- a. Mission 3089 approved for execution.
- b. Negative alert for other areas.

7. REMARKS:

- a. Mission 3089 was completed successfully, and the
aircraft returned to Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas.
- b. Due to cloud cover in the eastern portion of Cuba,
the Banes/Guantanamo areas were inadequately covered.
Three additional SA-2 Sites were detected in the central
portion of the island (Sagua la Grande, Sancti Spiritus,
and Caibarien).

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6 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission remaining to be flown in September approved by the Special Group 30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 8 September 1962.

CAT IV variable CAT III over entire island except CAT II over northeast coast between Banes and 78° west.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 6 September 1962: Not applicable.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due forecast unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

Intended mission track planned to cover central and eastern portions of Cuba which were not covered on mission 3089.

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7 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by the Special Group 30 August 1962, to be flown in September.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 9 September 1962.
CAT IV over entire island with CAT III along northeast coast.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 7 September 1962:
CAT III over the entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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8 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission remaining to be flown in September approved by the Special Group 30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 10 September 1962.

CAT IV over western third; CAT III over remainder except CAT II over northeast coast of Cuba from Banes to Sagua la Grande.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 8 September 1962:

CAT IV variable CAT III over the entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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9 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission remaining to be flown in September approved by the Special Group 30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 11 September 1962.

CAT II over central third, CAT IV over extreme west tip and eastern third. Remainder of island CAT III.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 9 September 1962:

CAT IV variable CAT III over the entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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10 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission remaining to be flown in September approved by the Special Group 30 August 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Central and eastern Cuba.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 12 September 1962.

CAT IV west of 82° west and south of Sierra Maestra.
Remainder of island CAT III variable CAT II.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 10 September 1962:

CAT IV variable CAT III over the entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

At a meeting of the Special Group on 10 September 1962, overflight approvals were reconsidered, and the planned tracks reviewed. As a result of this meeting, three additional sorties were approved, leaving four sorties remaining to be accomplished in September. Missions were specifically approved as follows:

(1) One mission over the Isle of Pines.

(2) One mission to overfly eastern Cuba, east of 77° west.

(3) One south coast peripheral mission, entering east of the known SA-2 sites in the Cien Fuegos area and progressing to the eastern tip of Cuba.

(4) One north coast peripheral mission entering at the eastern tip of Cuba and progressing to the area of known SA-2 sites in the Matanzas area.

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11 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pines.
- b. East of 77° west.
- c. South peripheral mission.
- d. North peripheral mission.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 13 September 1962.

CAT IV over the entire island with the exception of CAT III with patchy CAT II over south central third of island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 11 September 1962:

CAT IV over the eastern and western third of the island. CAT III variable CAT IV over the central third of the island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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12 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pines.
- b. East of 77° west.
- c. South peripheral mission.
- d. North peripheral mission.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 14 September 1962.

CAT IV over extreme eastern end of island with
CAT II over central and southeast portion.
Remainder CAT III.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 12 September 1962:

CAT IV over the eastern and western third and
CAT III over the central third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352
in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of
commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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13 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pipes.
- b. East of 77° west.
- c. South peripheral mission.
- d. North peripheral mission.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 15 September 1962.
CAT IV over extreme western end of island with
CAT II over central and southeast portion.
Remainder CAT III.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 13 September 1962:
CAT IV over the eastern third of island and CAT III
variable CAT IV over the remainder of the island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352
in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of
commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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14 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pines.
- b. East of 77° west.
- c. South peripheral mission.
- d. North peripheral mission.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 16 September 1962.
CAT IV over the extreme eastern end of island with
CAT II over central and southeast portion.
Remainder CAT III.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 14 September 1962:
CAT II over the eastern two-thirds of the island and
CAT II variable CAT IV over the western third of the island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352
in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission
at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3090 alerted for 16 September 1962.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3090 was planned to cover the Guantanamo and
Banes areas.

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15 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pines.
- b. East of 77° west.
- c. South peripheral mission.
- d. North peripheral mission.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3090:

Mission Plan: Valid 16 September 1962.

CAT II over eastern third of the island to include Banes/Guantanamo areas.

GO-NO-GO: Valid 16 September 1962.

Deterioration over eastern Cuba resulted in CAT IV forecast.

b. Alert: Valid 17 September 1962.

CAT II over western two-thirds of the island, including the Isle of Pines.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 15 September 1962:

CAT II variable CAT IV over eastern and western thirds of the island and CAT III variable CAT IV over the central third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

a. Mission 3090 delayed 24 hours due to deterioration of weather in the Guantanamo/Banes areas.

b. Mission 3091 alerted for 17 September 1962.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3091 was planned to cover the Isle of Pines and the Zapata Swamp.

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16 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pines.
- b. East of 77° west.
- c. South peripheral mission.
- d. North peripheral mission.

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

- a. Mission 3091:
Mission Plan: Valid 17 September 1962.
CAT II over western half of the island, including the Isle of Pines.
GO-NO-GO: Valid 17 September 1962.
No change in mission plan.
- b. Alert: Valid 18 September 1962.
CAT II over central third of the island with CAT III variable CAT IV over the remainder.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 16 September 1962:
CAT II over the entire island, except CAT III over the extreme eastern portion.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

- a. Mission 3090 cancelled due to unfavorable weather conditions.
- b. Mission 3091 continued at the twelve-hour mission plan weather review.
- c. Negative alert for 18 September 1962.
- d. GO-NO-GO briefing for 3091 approved for execution 17 September 1962.

7. REMARKS:

No remarks.

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17 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Four missions approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Isle of Pines
- b. East of 77° West
- c. South peripheral mission
- d. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 19 September 1962
CAT IV variable CAT III over the entire island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 17 September 1962
CAT V over the Isle of Pines; CAT IV variable CAT V over the entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert for 19 September due to forecasts of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

a. Mission 3091 completed, departing and returning to Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas. Mission unsuccessful due to a solid undercast.

b. Failure of mission 3091 reported by the Assistant Director, Office of Special Activities, and another mission was requested to cover the Isle of Pines.

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18 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 20 September 1962
CAT IV variable CAT III over entire Island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 18 September 1962
CAT IV over entire Island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

None

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19 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 21 September 1962
CAT V over western one-third of island; CAT V over central one-third; and CAT III over eastern one-third of island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 19 September 1962
CAT IV over entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

None

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20 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77⁰ West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 22 September 1962

CAT II over Eastern one-third of island; CAT III over Central one-third; and CAT IV over over Western one-third of island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 20 September 1962

CAT III over eastern one-third of island; CAT IV variable CAT V over central and western two-thirds of island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3092 alerted for execution on 22 September.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3092 planned to penetrate at the east tip of Cuba and cover the Guantanamo and Banes area.

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21 September 1962

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1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3092

Mission Plan: Valid 22 September 1962

CAT II over eastern one-third of island; CAT III variable CAT IV over the remainder of the island.

Go-No-Go: Valid 22 September 1962

Deterioration resulted in CAT III forecast for Banos, with no other significant change in forecast.

b. Alert: Valid 23 September 1962

CAT II over eastern one-third of island except south of Sierra Maestra Mountains and the Northeast Coast. The remainder of the island at CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 21 September 1962

CAT III variable CAT IV over eastern one-third of island; CAT IV over central and western two-thirds of island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3092 continued through mission plan; however, was cancelled at Go-No-Go due to deterioration of weather in target area.

Negative alert 23 September due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

Due to the generally poor weather condition that prevailed and was forecasted to continue over Cuba, no weather briefings were scheduled for 22 September.

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22 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

None

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 22 September 1962
CAT IV over entire island

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

None

7. REMARKS:

Forecast weather was not reviewed on 22 September; however, regular weather forecasts were scheduled to resume 23 September.

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23 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 25 September 1962
CAT III variable CAT IV over entire island

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 23 September 1962
CAT III variable CAT IV over central and western two-thirds of island; CAT II over eastern one-third except on the Northeast Coast including Banes.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

None

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24 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 26 September 1962
CAT II over eastern one-third of island and western one-third; CAT III variable CAT IV over central one-third of island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 24 September 1962
CAT III over central one-third of island; CAT II over eastern and western one-third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3093 alerted for 26 September 1962.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3093 is the identical track planned for mission 3092 and covers Guantanamo and Banes.

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25 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3093

Mission Plan: Valid 26 September 1962

CAT II over eastern one-third of island and west central one-third; CAT III over remainder of the island.

Go-No-Go: Valid 26 September 1962

Deterioration forecast reduced the CAT II area over Eastern Cuba to one that included the area East of 76½°W, with the remainder of the island CAT III variable CAT IV.

b. Alert: Valid 27 September 1962

CAT III variable CAT IV over entire island except a small CAT II area on the west central portion of the island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 25 September 1962

CAT III variable CAT IV over the eastern and central two-thirds of the island; CAT II over the western one-third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

a. Mission 3093 continued through mission plan and Go-No-GO weather, and was approved for execution 26 September.

b. Negative alert for 27 September due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

None

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26 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remaining from the four approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. East of 77° West
- b. South peripheral mission
- c. North peripheral mission

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 28 September 1962
CAT II over central one-third and entire Northeast and East Coast of Island; CAT III over the Southeast Coast, and extreme West of island.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 26 September 1962
CAT II over eastern and western one-third of island;
CAT II variable CAT III over central one-third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3094 alerted for 28 September 1962.

7. REMARKS:

a. Mission 3093 completed successfully. SA-2 sites were discovered at Chaparra, Jiguani, and Los Angeles.

b. Mission 3094 was planned as a peripheral flight on the north coast of Cuba from the eastern tip to the Matanzas area.

26 September 1962

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27 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

- a. Two missions remain.
- b. Special approval received this date to re-accomplish coverage of the Isle of Pines. This coverage was extended to include Zapata Swamps.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. North and South Peripheral
- b. Isle of Pines

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

- a. Mission 3094
Mission Plan: Valid 28 September 1962
Cat II central two-thirds of island; CAT III southeast of Banes and along southern coast; CAT III western remainder
Go-No-Go: Valid 28 September 1962
Deterioration resulted in CAT III forecast over northeast coast with CAT II forecast over southwestern two-thirds of island.
- b. Alert: Valid 29 September 1962
CAT II western two-thirds including Isle of Pines/Zappata Swamps; CAT III variable CAT IV eastern one-third.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 27 September 1962
CAT III over eastern and central two-thirds; CAT II over western one-third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

- a. Mission 3094 delayed twenty-four hours due to deterioration of weather in the target area.
- b. Mission 3095 alerted for 29 September.

7. REMARKS:

None

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27 September 1962

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28 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remain: Two missions were approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962; one mission was approved by the Special Group on 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. North and South Peripheral
- b. Isle of Pines

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

- a. Missions 3094 and 3095
Mission Plan: Valid 29 September 1962
CAT II over western and central two-thirds;
Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.
Go-No-Go: Valid 29 September 1962
No change from mission plan.
- b. Alert: Valid 30 September 1962
CAT II over central one-third; Remainder CAT III
variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 28 September 1962
CAT II over western and central two-thirds; Remainder
CAT IV.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

- a. Mission 3094 cancelled due to deterioration of weather in the target area.
- b. Mission 3095 continued through mission plan and Go-No-Go weather, and was approved for execution 29 September.

7. REMARKS:

None

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29 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Three missions remain: Two missions were approved by the Special Group on 10 September 1962; one mission was approved by the Special Group on 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. North and South Peripheral
- b. Isle of Pines

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 1 October 1962
CAT II over central one-third; Remainder CAT III
variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 29 September 1962
CAT III over western and central two-thirds; Remainder
CAT IV.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Numbers 343, 352, and 342 all in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

a. Mission 3095 completed successfully, and the SA-2 site and the cruise missile site at Ciguanea on the Isle of Pines were detected.

b. Negative alert for 1 October due to forecast of unfavorable weather.

7. REMARKS:

None

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30 September 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

Two missions remaining to be flown approved by the Special Group 10 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. South coast peripheral
- b. North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 2 October 1962.
CAT II over major portion of island excluding the northeast coast and western tip.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 30 September 1962:
CAT II over west and central two-thirds. Remainder CAT II variable CAT IV.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Missions 3096 and 3097 alerted for 2 October 1962.

7. REMARKS:

- a. Mission 3096 planned as a peripheral mission from the east tip of Cuba to the Matanzas area.
- b. Mission 3097 planned as a peripheral mission from the area east of Cienfuegos to the Sierra Maestra area.

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1 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. Two missions remaining to be flown approved by the Special Group 10 September 1962.

B. One additional sortie approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. South coast peripheral
- b. North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Missions 3096 and 3097: Mission Plan: Valid 2 October 1962: CAT II deteriorated to small area over central Cuba. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

b. Alert: Valid 3 October 1962: CAT II over central one-third, remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 1 October 1962: CAT II over central one-third, remainder CAT IV.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

a. Missions 3096 and 3097 cancelled due to deterioration of weather in target areas.

b. Negative alert for 3 October 1962.

7. REMARKS:

Due to forecast unfavorable weather.

1 October 1962

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2 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. Two missions remaining to be flown approved by the Special Group 10 September 1962.

b. One additional sortie approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

a. South coast peripheral

b. North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 4 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-half. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 2 October 1962: CAT IV variable CAT III over entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 352 returned to Lockheed Aircraft Corporation; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to unreliability of forecast.

7. REMARKS:

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3 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. Two missions remaining to be flown approved by the Special Group 10 September 1962.

b. One additional sortie approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. South coast peripheral
- b. North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 5 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-half. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 3 October 1962: CAT IV variable CAT III over entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3098 alerted for 5 October 1962.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3098 planned as a southern peripheral mission.

3 October 1962

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4 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. Two missions remaining to be flown approved by the Special Group 10 September 1962.

b. One additional sortie approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

a. South coast peripheral

b. North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3098: Mission Plan: Valid 5 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-half. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

GO-NO-GO: Valid 5 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-half of island except CAT III over northeast coast. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

b. Alert: Valid 6 October 1962: CAT II over northeast coast east of 77° West and over south central coast. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 4 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-third except northeast coast. Remainder CAT IV variable CAT III.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

a. Mission 3098 continued through 12-hour mission plan and was approved for execution on go-no-go weather.

b. Mission 3099 alerted for 6 October 1962.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3099 was planned as a north peripheral mission.

4 October 1962

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5 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. Two missions remaining to be flown approved by the Special Group 10 September 1962.

b. One additional sortie approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

- a. South coast peripheral
- b. North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3099: Mission Plan: Valid 6 October 1962: CAT II over eastern two-thirds except south of Sierra Maestra Mountains. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

GO-NO-GO: Valid 6 October 1962: CAT II over entire island except south of Sierra Maestra Mountains.

b. Alert: Valid 7 October 1962: CAT II over entire island except CAT III variable CAT IV over north central coast.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 5 October 1962: Predominantly CAT II over entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

a. Mission 3099 continued through 12-hour mission plan and was approved for execution on go-no-go weather.

b. Mission 3100 alerted as backup for Mission 3099.

7. REMARKS:

Mission 3098 was completed successfully. One SA2 site was discovered at Manzanillo.

5 October 1962

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6 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. One mission remains of the 10 September 1962 approval by the Special Group.

b. One mission approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

North Coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

a. Mission 3100: Mission Plan: Valid 7 October 1962: CAT II over entire island except south of Sierra Maestra Mountains.

GO-NO-GO: Valid 7 October 1962: No significant change from Mission Plan.

b. Alert: Valid 8 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-third. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 6 October 1962: CAT II over central one-third, CAT III over western one-third, CAT IV over eastern one-third.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Mission 3100 continued through Mission Plan weather and was approved for execution on go-no-go weather.

7. REMARKS:

a. Mission 3099 aborted prior to penetration of denied territories due to malfunction of air refueling system.

b. Mission 3100 approved for the same track as Mission 3099.

6 October 1962

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7 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

a. One mission remains of the 10 September 1962 approval by the Special Group.

b. One mission approved by the Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

North coast peripheral

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 9 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-third. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 7 October 1962: Predominantly CAT II over entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at Del Rio, Texas; Nbr. 342 in commission at Del Rio, Texas.

6. DECISION:

Not applicable.

7. REMARKS:

a. Mission 3100 completed successfully. Four SA2 sites located at Chambas, Esmeralda, Manati and Senado were detected.

b. Mission aircraft returned with fuel system malfunction.

c. A specific track for the remaining mission approval had not been selected pending completion of missions authorized on 10 September 1962.

d. The two aircraft available were returned to Edwards Air Force Base and were not operationally ready.

7 October 1962

BYE 2315063

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8 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 8 October 1962: Predominantly CAT II over entire island.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Not applicable.

7. REMARKS:

No weather briefing scheduled due to lack of operationally ready aircraft.

8 October 1962

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9 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 9 October 1962: Predominantly CAT II over entire island with CAT IV over extreme west tip and northeast coast.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

7. REMARKS:

a. No Weather briefing scheduled due to lack of operationally ready aircraft.

b. Based on estimate of aircraft availability, weather forecasts were scheduled to resume 10 October 1962.

c. As a result of a special meeting of the Special Group, it was decided that the approved mission would be planned against advanced SA2 sites and would include a suspected missile area in the vicinity of San Cristobal. It was further decided that this mission would be flown by a military pilot. Subsequent Weather briefings were scheduled by the CIA in the event that favorable weather might be forecast prior to the time that a military pilot could be requalified in the CIA configured U-2 aircraft.

9 October 1962

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10 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 12 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-third. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 10 October 1962: CAT II variable CAT IV over eastern one-third. Remainder CAT IV.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to the lack of available A/C.

10 October 1962

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11 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 13 October 1962: CAT II over eastern one-third. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 11 October 1962: CAT II variable CAT IV over eastern and western one-third. Remainder CAT IV.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

Negative alert due to weather.

7. REMARKS:

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12 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

Alert: Valid 14 October 1962: CAT II over western tip of island. Remainder CAT III variable CAT IV.

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 12 October 1962: CAT III over western one-third. Remainder CAT IV variable CAT III.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

7. REMARKS:

Major Heyser completed initial requalification in Agency aircraft. Total flight time: 1 plus 50 hours.

12 October 1962

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13 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 13 October 1962: Predominantly CAT II over entire island except CAT IV over northeast coast.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 out of commission at Edwards Air Force Base; Nbr. 342 in commission at Edwards Air Force Base.

6. DECISION:

7. REMARKS:

Agency detachment deployed to McCoy Air Force Base, Florida to support SAC operation. Major Heyser completed his second requalification flight. Total flight time: 1 plus 50 hours.

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14 October 1962

1. SPECIAL GROUP APPROVAL:

One mission approved by Special Group 27 September 1962.

2. AREA OF OPERATIONS:

Cuba

3. WEATHER FORECAST:

4. ACTUAL WEATHER:

Valid 14 October 1962; CAT II over east and west one-third. Remainder CAT III.

5. AIRCRAFT STATUS:

Number 343 in commission at McCoy Air Force Base, Florida; Nbr. 342 in commission at McCoy Air Force Base, Florida.

6. DECISION:

7. REMARKS:

a. Mission 3101 completed successfully by SAC and aircraft recovered at McCoy Air Force Base.

b. Aircraft 343 was ferried to McCoy Air Force Base to support continued SAC operations over Cuba.

c. Agency detachment including pilots remained at McCoy Air Force Base to support SAC operations.

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FILE -
Weather - Mission status

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